

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 24, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, to whom was referred the memorial of William F. Russell, having had the same under consideration, report:

It appears that while the memorialist was absent from his home at Fort Capron, Florida, in the month of November, 1853, two houses belonging to him, adjoining the fort, were taken possession of by United States troops by order of their commanding officer, and were so occupied without his knowledge or consent, and without rent until the 15th December of the same year, when they were accidentally destroyed by fire.

The testimony of Lieutenant Dickerson is, that he placed the family of a soldier in the houses, under the impression that they belonged to the United States; that the houses were so occupied when he was removed from the fort; and Major Haskins, who succeeded him in the command, testifies that the houses were burned on the 15th December, 1853, while occupied by the soldier's family. The soldier himself testifies as to the occupancy and cause of burning; and Manuel Navarro, a practical house-joiner, besides corroborating the statements, declares under oath that the houses so burned were worth \$1,200; and his statement is vouched for by the subscribing magistrate.

The committee cannot understand how these houses could have been taken possession of and occupied so long without the knowledge and consent of the owner, a resident of the place, and there is no satisfactory proof that the property belonged to the memorialist; they therefore report that his prayer be denied.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

March 22, 1855.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, submitted the following

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS, IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 18, 1855, RELATIVE TO THE CASE OF THE MARRIED WOMAN, &c.

It appears that while the memorialists were absent from their homes at Fort Capron, Florida, in the month of November, 1853, two houses belonging to him, which the fort was taken possession of by United States troops by order of their commanding officer, and were so occupied without his knowledge or consent, and without any notice being given him of the same fact, when they were eventually de-

stroyed by fire. The testimony of Lieutenant Richardson is that he placed the family of a soldier in the houses, under the impression that they belonged to the United States; that the houses were so occupied when he was transferred from the fort; and Major Haskins, who succeeded him in the command, testified that the houses were burned on the 15th December, 1853, while occupied by the soldier's family. The soldier himself testifies as to the occupancy and state of housing; and Michael Navarro, a practical house-jailer, besides corroborating the statements, declares under oath that the houses so burned were worth \$1,200; and his statement is verified by the subscribing magistrate.

The committee cannot understand how these houses could have been taken possession of and occupied as long without the knowledge and consent of the owner, a resident of the place, and there is no authentic proof that the property belonged to the memorialist; they therefore report that his prayer be denied.